

**Bishop E. W. Lampton,
D.D., LL.D.**

A. M. E. Church

Residence: Greenville, Miss.

BISHOP LAMPTON presides over the six conferences of Louisiana and Mississippi, known as the "Eighth Episcopal District."

He was born in Kingsville, Ky., October 21, 1857, of slave parents. His grandfather, the Rev. Edward Wilkinson, was the first preacher of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Kentucky. Mr. Wilkinson was arrested and sent to prison in 1857 for attempting to organize the church of which his grandson is now an honored bishop.

Edward Wilkinson Lampton was converted at the age of seventeen years and shortly afterward prepared to enter the ministry. He is an alumnus of Alcorn College, Alcorn, Miss.; Campbell College, Jackson, Miss.; Shorter College, Little Rock, Ark.; and Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio.

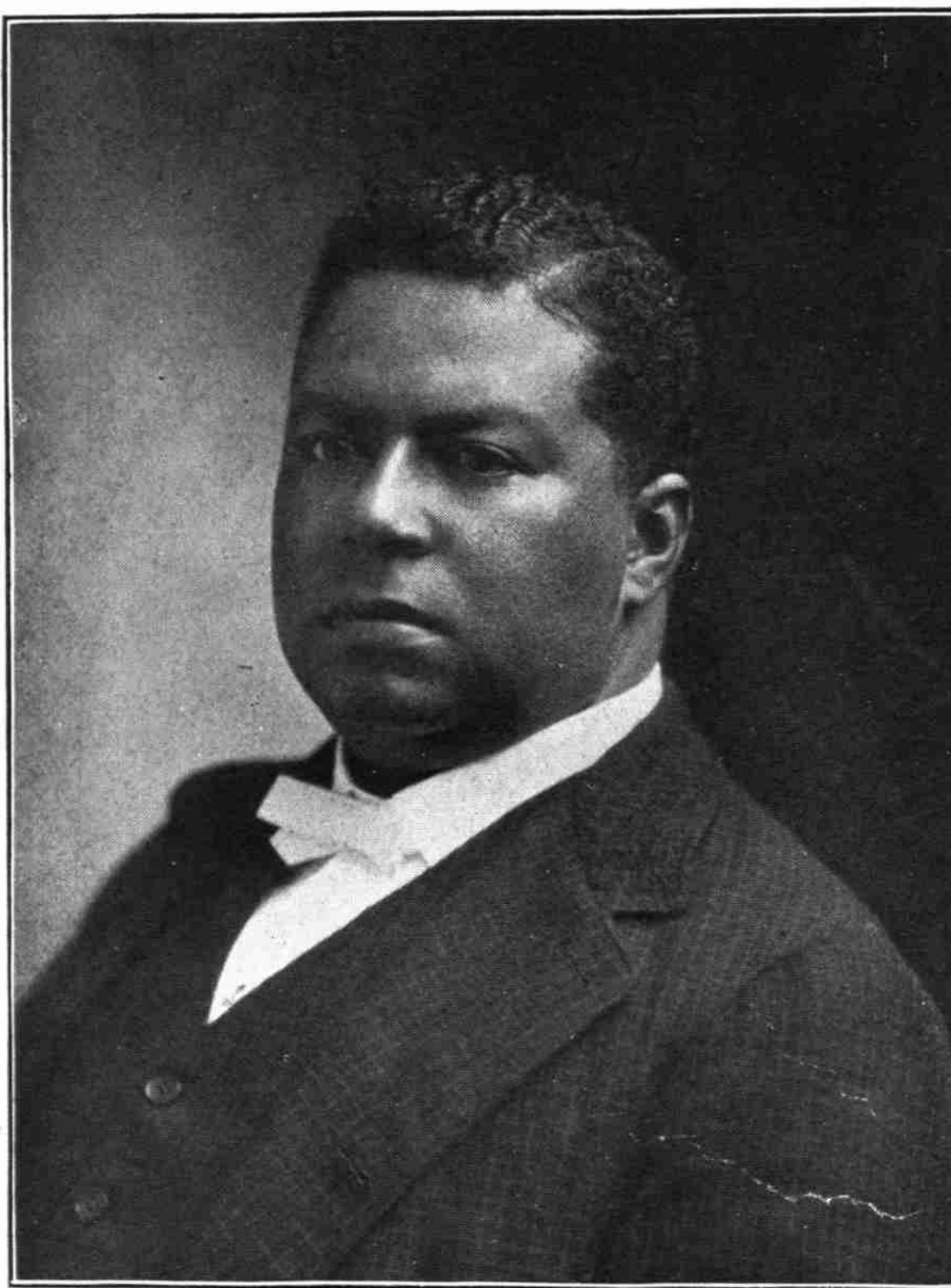
He was successful as a pastor in many leading appointments of the church, and has been very helpful to the church as the author of two books, "An Analysis on Baptism" and "A Digest on the Rulings and Decisions of the Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1847 to 1907."

In 1902 he was paymaster of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, with headquarters in Washington, and was elected without opposition. He has always been considered one of the leading financiers of the church. At the last General Conference, held in Norfolk, Va., May, 1908, he was elected bishop, and his election was received by the church at large with great satisfaction.

Greatest Needs of the Negro Race

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THE greatest need of any people is their moral and religious education. All other training or education is secondary. There is no true life which will meet the approval of God without a correct moral status. There can be no real race elevation if we undervalue the moral and religious phase of our existence. The Holy Scriptures truly say: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." In the study of the Book, we have the inspiration to a correct moral living, and the basis upon which we may build for the elevation of the race. There is no more important work than that of training the young in the truths and commands of the Bible.



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The needs of the moral and religious education of the Negro are clearly manifest. His opportunities for ethical training in some sections of our country, before his emancipation, were very meager, yet there were individual types of moral excellence even in the dark days of slavery, showing conclusively that if under the most adverse circumstances they could produce these characters of superior goodness, all they need at the present time is opportunity in the race of life, and the door of desire and expectancy left open that they may enter.

It could not be reasonably expected for any race of people to reach the zenith of our ambition in the short time that we have been free. Dr. John Lord, in his "Beacon Lights of History," says: "It took one thousand years to elevate the Germanic Barbarian." If the same period be allotted to the Negro, judging from the progress he has already made in a little more than forty years, it is safe to say he will, at the end of a thousand years, be far superior to many, and as highly cultured as any,

people upon the globe, and that is worth striving for.

The greatest need of to-day is a consecrated, educated, and business ministry. No people can rise above their religious instructors. It is important that the right kind of instruction be given in all our schools. The real progress of races can be more clearly traced to the gospel ministry of the Christian Church, assisted by good home training and the education acquired in the schoolroom, than to any other sources. Every effort should be made to give the Negro an educated ministry, and in our Southland, where the masses of our people dwell, none but the ablest, consecrated teachers should be employed in the schoolroom, —Christian men and women, who will teach by example as well as by books, to bring about desired results.

Through this method, and this alone, all other things being equal, will the race of which I am a member be in the scale of Christian civilization and usefulness and measure up to their possibilities in all departments of human endeavor. The systematic study of the Bible must be encouraged and the work of the Sunday-school is to be heartily commended. These are some of the great needs of the Negro race.